



October 30, 2025

Mayor Combs, Vice Mayor Nash, and Councilmembers Taylor, Schmidt, and Wise,

We urge you to adopt the *Downtown Parking Plazas Ordinance* without delay.

Menlo Park needs more affordable housing, and we need to move faster to identify the best sites. Adopting this ordinance now will:

1. **Respect the voters' mandate.** Our petition was certified by the County after receiving 150% of the required signatures, showing broad resident support for a public vote before repurposing the downtown parking plazas.
2. **Save public resources.** An extra election would be costly, distracting, and unnecessary.
3. **Keep housing on schedule.** Adoption provides immediate clarity, so staff and developers can focus work on the most suitable housing sites now, rather than waiting 6–12 months for an election cycle.

This ordinance is narrow in scope and simple in effect: if the City wants to accept a proposal to repurpose the downtown parking plazas, residents get a vote. It does not prevent the Council from advocating for projects you believe serve the public interest - you can make that case directly to voters.

Meanwhile, Menlo Park can advance housing where it makes the most sense.

By adopting the ordinance now, you can accelerate the site selection process for the housing we need, while demonstrating your trust in the people of Menlo Park.

Sincerely,
Save Downtown Menlo - savedowntownmenlo.org

Note: This correspondence is also being shared publicly as an open letter.